



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/765,732

01/27/2004

Blaine D. Johs

2478

7590

09/08/2006

JAMES D. WELCH
10328 PINEHURST AVE.
OMAHA, NE 68124

EXAMINER

DETSCHEL, MARISSA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2877

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/765,732

Applicant(s)

JOHS ET AL.

Examiner

Marissa J. Detschel

Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 12-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 14 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12, 13 and 15-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendments to the specification and the drawings filed on June 13, 2006, have been entered. The amendments to the claims filed on June 27, 2006, have been entered.

The indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 10, 11, and 14 in the action filed June 1, 2006, have been withdrawn in view of new grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 as set forth below. Examiner makes note that the subject matter of claim 10 is now in amended claim 8 and the subject matter of claim 11 is now incorporated in new claim 19.

Claim Objections

Claims 8, 14, 18, and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities:

As to claim 8, part d, line 2, the phrase "differencs said" appears and this should read "differences in said"

As to claim 14, part b, line 3, the phrase "and via a detector" appears in this line and should read "and, via a detector,"

As to claim 14, part b, line 4, the word "ellipsometric" is misspelled in this claim and should read "ellipsometric"

As to claim 14, part b, line 4, the word "and" appears at the end of this line and should be removed.

As to claim 14, part c, line 6, the word "ellipsometric" is misspelled in this claim and should read "ellipsometric"

As to claim 14, part d, line 1, the phrase "over a spectroscopic range of wavelengths" begins this line and should read "over a spectroscopic range of wavelengths,"

As to claim 18, line 4, the phrase "optically transparent material, are also determined" appears in this line and should read "optically transparent material are also determined"

As to claim 19, part d, line 2, the phrase "differencs said" appears and should read "differences in said"

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 8, 14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the end results of the claims do not exemplify a concrete, tangible, and useful result. See OG Notices: 22 November 2005, "Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility".

Specifically, regarding claims 8 and 19, the end result of merely "modifying fabrication parameters..." would not appear to be sufficient to constitute a tangible result, since the outcome of the "modifying fabrication parameters..." step has not been used in a disclosed practical application nor made available in such a manner that its usefulness in a disclosed practical application can be realized.

Furthermore, regarding claim 14, merely “using peaks in the parameter determined in step d to evaluate thickness...” would not appear to be sufficient to constitute a tangible result, since the outcome of the “using peaks in the parameter determined in step d to evaluate thickness...” step has not been used in a disclosed practical application nor made available in such a manner that its usefulness in a disclosed practical application can be realized. The peaks in the parameter determined in step d are not conveyed for use, resulting in the evaluation of the thickness as not being tangible.

In particular, Part b. *Practical Application the Produces a Useful, Concrete, and Tangible Result* under Section IV *Determine Whether the Claimed Invention Complies with the Subject Matter Eligibility Requirement of 35 U.S.C. Sec. 101* sentence 3 in the OG Notice from 22 November 2005 states ‘In determining whether the claim is for a “practical application,” the focus is not on whether the steps taken to achieve a particular result are useful, tangible, and concrete, but rather that the final result achieved by the claimed invention is “useful, tangible, and concrete.”’

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12, 13, and 15-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a base claim rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as set forth above, but would be allowable if the base claims were rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101.

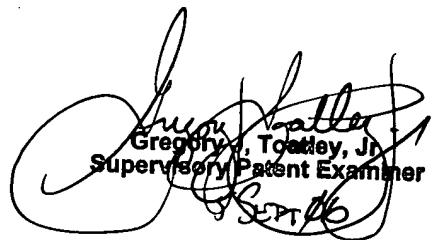
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa J. Detschel whose telephone number is 571-272-2716. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley, Jr. can be reached on 571-272-2059. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Marissa J. Detschel
August 30, 2006

mjd


Gregory J. Toatley, Jr.
Supervisory Patent Examiner
SEP 11 2006